

7720 Ramona Boulevard West
Jacksonville, Florida 32221-3453

January 21, 2003



The Honorable Greg Nickels
Mayor, City of Seattle
600 Fifth Avenue, 12th floor
Seattle, Washington 98104

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CITY OF SEATTLE
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Honorable Nickels:

I am CEO of JEA, the community owned electric, water, and wastewater utility serving over 1 million people in and around Jacksonville, Florida. I have held my position for eight years and have been employed by JEA for 28 year. I have worked with Gary Zarker, your fine City's electric utility Superintendent since he assumed that position several years ago.

Gary and I have worked together on may issues through our national trade associations and, on certain issues, we have worked together directly on matters of common interest to our respective utilities.

I understand there is a prescribed periodic review process for Gary's position. I am writing to express my high opinion of Gary's talents and performance in his current position.

In our industry, we have all been confronted with many remarkable, complex and unpredictable events in the past few years. I know the northwest has faced even more tough challenges that the rest of the country. Based on my industry knowledge generally, and my knowledge of Gary's performance specifically, I believe your City and it utility's customers have been well served by Gary's leadership. We have seen many utility and utility related organizations across the country collapse financially and organizationally. However, your City's utility, under Gary's leadership has come through the challenges with its physical, financial, and organizational capabilities intact and capable of moving forward successfully.

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I would recommend you retain Gary in his position. He has the knowledge, talents, and proven performance effectively meeting the toughest challenges the electric utility industry has faced since the Great Depression seventy years ago. I would enjoy continuing to work with Gary in the future to advance mutual interests of our communities and out customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walt Bussells". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Walter Bussells
Managing Director/CEO